GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2499
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2008
STATE ASSISTED SCHEME OF PROVIDENT FUND FOR UNORGAINISED WORKERS
Manoj Dr. K.S.

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started a scheme State Assisted Scheme of Provident Fund for Unorganised Workers (SASPFUW)

(b) if so, the details and salient features thereof;

(c) whether all the States have accepted the said scheme; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereforalongwith the objections, if any, raised by the State Governments in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): The State Government of West Bengal has launched the State Assisted Scheme ofProvident Fund for Unorganised Workers (SASPFUW) for both employed and self-employed workersin the Unorganised Sector which commenced with effect from 01-01-2001. As reported by the StateGovernment, the salient features of the scheme are as under:

At present 13 employments and 8 self employment occupations are covered under the scheme and thescheme would be extended to some more areas shortly.

A worker is eligible to come under the purview of the scheme if he/she fulfils the followingcriteria:-

(i) He/she should be employed in the listed employments/or be self-employed in the listedoccupations in West Bengal.

(ii) He/she should be between 18 & 55 years of age.

(iii) His/her average family income from all sources should not exceed Rs. 3500/- p.m.

(iv) He/she should not be covered under the Employees Provident Fund and MiscellaneousProvisions Act, 1952.

Each beneficiary contributes a sum of Rs. 20/- per month into the account under the scheme.TheState Government contributes an equal amount into the account. The State Government also paysinterest on the total amount.The total contribution along with the interest will be paid to thebeneficiary on attaining the age of 55 years. In the event of death of the beneficiary beforeattaining of age of 55 years, the total amount including interest will be paid to his/hernominee/legal heir soon after his/her death.

(c) & (d): The State Assisted Scheme of Provident Fund for Unorganised Workers (SASPFUW) isspecific to the State of West Bengal.Hence, each state has to take a view whether they wouldwant to adopt the scheme or not.